



Vikas Khanna  
Attorney for the United States  
Acting Under Authority of 28 U.S.C. § 515

United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Suite 700  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

(973) 645-2700

March 1, 2022

Georgina Giordano Pallitto, Esq.  
Pallitto Law, LLC  
475 Bloomfield Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07107  
gpallitto@pallittolaw.com

Re: Plea Agreement with Dashawn Danforth  
Criminal No. 22-863

Dear Ms. Pallitto:

This letter sets forth the plea agreement between your client, Dashawn Danforth ("Danforth" or "Defendant"), and the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey ("this Office"). The government's offer to enter into this plea agreement will expire on **March 17, 2022** if it is not accepted in writing by that date.

Charge

Conditioned on the understandings specified below, this Office will accept a guilty plea from Danforth to an Information that charges him with bank fraud conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349. If Danforth enters a guilty plea and is sentenced on this charge, and otherwise fully complies with all of the terms of this agreement, this Office will not initiate any further criminal charges against Danforth for the conduct described in the Criminal Complaint Mag. No. 20-12414 or for aggravated identity theft arising from the conduct described in Mag. No. 20-12414. However, in the event that a guilty plea in this matter is not entered for any reason or the judgment of conviction entered as a result of this guilty plea does not remain in full force and effect, Danforth agrees that any dismissed charges and any other charges that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed by Danforth may be commenced against him notwithstanding the expiration of the limitations period after Danforth signs the agreement.

## Sentencing

The violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1349 charged in the Information to which Danforth agrees to plead guilty carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 30 years, and a statutory maximum fine of \$1,000,000.

Fines imposed by the sentencing judge may be subject to the payment of interest.

The sentence to be imposed upon Danforth is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge, subject to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3742, and the sentencing judge's consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory. The sentencing judge may impose any reasonable sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum statutory fine. This Office cannot and does not make any representation or promise as to what guideline range may be found by the sentencing judge, or as to what sentence Danforth ultimately will receive.

Further, in addition to imposing any other penalty on Danforth, the sentencing judge: (1) will order Danforth to pay an assessment of \$100 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, which assessment must be paid by the date of sentencing; (2) must order Danforth to pay restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A et seq.; (3) may order Danforth, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3555, to give notice to any victims of his offense; (4) must order forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461; and (5) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 may require Danforth to serve a term of supervised release of not more than five years, which term will begin at the expiration of any term of imprisonment imposed. Should Danforth be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently violate any of the conditions of supervised release before the expiration of its term, Danforth may be sentenced to not more than three years' imprisonment, which term is in addition to any prison term previously imposed regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

In addition, Danforth agrees to make full restitution for all losses resulting from the offense of conviction or from the scheme, conspiracy, or pattern of criminal activity underlying such offense, as determined by the Court. Danforth agrees that this restitution shall include losses caused as a result of the fraudulently deposited checks listed in Schedule A.

### Rights of This Office Regarding Sentencing

Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, this Office reserves its right to take any position with respect to the appropriate sentence to be imposed on Danforth by the sentencing judge, to correct any misstatements relating to the sentencing proceedings, and to provide the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office all law and information relevant to sentencing, favorable or otherwise. In addition, this Office may inform the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office of: (1) this agreement; and (2) the full nature and extent of Danforth's activities and relevant conduct with respect to this case.

### Stipulations

This Office and Danforth agree to stipulate at sentencing to the statements set forth in the attached Schedule A, which hereby is made a part of this plea agreement. This agreement to stipulate, however, cannot and does not bind the sentencing judge, who may make independent factual findings and may reject any or all of the stipulations entered into by the parties. To the extent that the parties do not stipulate to a particular fact or legal conclusion, each reserves the right to argue the existence of and the effect of any such fact or conclusion upon the sentence. Moreover, this agreement to stipulate on the part of this Office is based on the information and evidence that this Office possesses as of the date of this agreement. Thus, if this Office obtains or receives additional evidence or information prior to sentencing that it determines to be credible and to be materially in conflict with any stipulation in the attached Schedule A, this Office shall not be bound by any such stipulation. A determination that any stipulation is not binding shall not release either this Office or Danforth from any other portion of this agreement, including any other stipulation. If the sentencing court rejects a stipulation, both parties reserve the right to argue on appeal or at post-sentencing proceedings that the sentencing court was within its discretion and authority to do so. These stipulations do not restrict this Office's right to respond to questions from the Court and to correct misinformation that has been provided to the Court.

### Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and Danforth waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after sentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

### Forfeiture

Danforth agrees that as part of his acceptance of responsibility and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 982(a)(2), 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), he will consent to the entry of a forfeiture money judgment as described below. All payments will be made by certified or bank check made payable to the United States Marshals Service with the criminal docket number noted on the face of the check. Danforth will cause that check to be hand-delivered to the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Unit, United States Attorney's Office, District of New Jersey, 970 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

Danforth will consent to the entry of a forfeiture money judgment in an amount to be determined by the Court (the "Forfeiture Money Judgment"). If the Forfeiture Money Judgment is not paid on or before the date Danforth enters his plea of guilty pursuant to this agreement, interest shall accrue from that date on any unpaid portion thereof at the rate and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1961(a) and (b). Furthermore, if Danforth fails to pay any portion of the Forfeiture Money Judgment on or before the date of Danforth's guilty plea, Danforth consents to the forfeiture of any other property alleged to be subject to forfeiture in the Information, including substitute assets, in full or partial satisfaction of the money judgment, and remains responsible for the payment of any deficiency until the Forfeiture Money Judgment is paid in full.

Danforth agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture and Forfeiture Money Judgment and waives the requirements of Rules 32.2 and 43(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. Danforth understands that the forfeiture and the Forfeiture Money are part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the court to advise him of this pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure at the guilty plea proceeding. Furthermore, Danforth waives any and all claims that this forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine and agrees that this forfeiture does not violate the Eighth Amendment.

### Immigration Consequences

Danforth understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offenses will likely result in him being subject to immigration proceedings and removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible, or ending his naturalization. Danforth understands that the immigration consequences of

this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. Danforth wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offenses, knowing that this plea will result in his removal from the United States. Danforth wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offenses regardless of any immigration consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. Danforth understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, Danforth waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

#### Other Provisions

This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and cannot bind other federal, state, or local authorities. However, this Office may bring this agreement to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested to do so.

This agreement was reached without regard to any civil or administrative matters that may be pending or commenced in the future against Danforth. This agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof (including the Internal Revenue Service and Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceeding against Danforth.

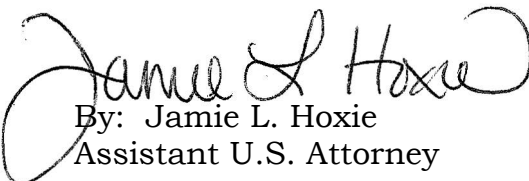
No provision of this agreement shall preclude Danforth from pursuing in an appropriate forum, when permitted by law, an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that Danforth received constitutionally ineffective assistance of counsel.

No Other Promises

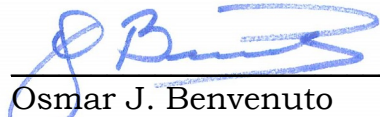
This agreement constitutes the plea agreement between Danforth and this Office and supersedes any previous agreements between them. No additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

Very truly yours,

VIKAS KHANNA  
Attorney for the United States  
Acting Under Authority of  
28 U.S.C. § 515

  
By: Jamie L. Hoxie  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

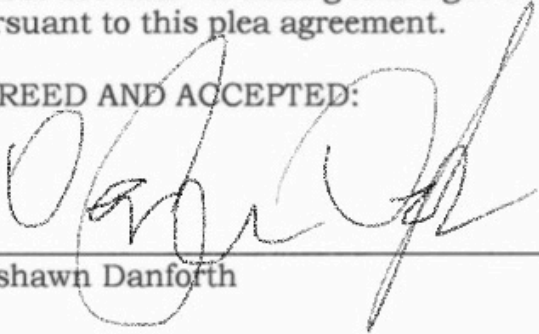
APPROVED:



Osmar J. Benvenuto  
Deputy Chief, Criminal Division

I have received this letter from my attorney, Georgina Giordano Pallitto, Esq. and I have read it. My attorney and I have discussed it and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charges, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, and immigration consequences. I understand this letter fully. I hereby accept its terms and conditions and acknowledge that it constitutes the plea agreement between the parties. I understand that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. I want to plead guilty pursuant to this plea agreement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dashawn Danforth

Date:

3/10/22

I have discussed with my client this plea agreement and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charges, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, and immigration consequences. My client understands this plea agreement fully and wants to plead guilty pursuant to it.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Georgina Giordano Pallitto, Esq.

Date: 3/10/22



Schedule A Plea Agreement with Dashawn Danforth

1. This Office and Dashawn Danforth (“Danforth”) agree to stipulate to the following facts:

a. Between in or around January 2018 and in or around December 2019, Danforth agreed and conspired with others to defraud financial institutions by depositing altered checks into coconspirators’ bank accounts to obtain money that did not belong to Danforth or his co-conspirators. Danforth also received money from his co-conspirators that Danforth knew had been obtained from the fraudulently deposited checks.

b. In furtherance of the conspiracy and agreement, the following acts were undertaken by Danforth and his co-conspirators and were reasonably foreseeable to Danforth:

- i. On or about August 13, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$9,350 was deposited into Co-conspirator-1’s bank account.
- ii. On or about August 30, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$6,800 was deposited into Co-conspirator-1’s bank account.
- iii. On or about September 26, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$19,500 was deposited into Co-conspirator-1’s bank account.
- iv. On or about October 10, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$14,000 was deposited into Co-conspirator-1’s bank account.
- v. On or about September 25, 2018, Co-conspirator-1 sent three successful electronic money transfers to Danforth.
- vi. On or about September 12, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$9,800 was deposited into Co-conspirator-2’s bank account.
- vii. On or about September 18, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$9,750 was deposited into Co-conspirator-2’s bank account.



- viii. On or about September 24, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$9,800 was deposited into Co-conspirator-2's bank account.
- ix. On or about September 25, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$15,050 was deposited into Co-conspirator-2's bank account.
- x. On or about September 26, 2018, three money transactions were sent Danforth from Co-conspirator-2's bank account.
- xi. On or about September 27, 2018, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$9,800 was deposited into Co-conspirator-2's bank account.
- xii. On or about October 4, 2018, three electronic money transactions were sent to Danforth from Co-conspirator-2's bank account.
- xiii. On or about February 8, 2019, a check that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amount of \$55,000 was deposited into Co-conspirator-3's bank account.
- xiv. On or about February 25, 2019, an electronic money transaction was sent to Danforth from Co-conspirator-3's bank account.
- xv. Danforth exchanged messages with another individual ("Co-conspirator-4") about how to open bank accounts for the purpose of the fraud scheme.
- xvi. On or about February 12, 2019, two checks that had been stolen and altered to be payable in the amounts of \$858.75 and \$1,337.44, respectively, were deposited into Co-conspirator-4's bank account.

2. If the sentencing court accepts the factual stipulations set forth above, both parties waive the right to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that the sentencing court erred in doing so. Otherwise, both parties reserve the right to file, oppose, or take any position in any appeal, collateral attack, or proceeding involving post-sentencing motions or writs.